



**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WESTERN REGION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**



SEPTEMBER 9, 2003

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

In Remembrance of Dave Goens: David Goens, former Meteorologist in Charge at both Pocatello, Idaho, and Missoula, Montana, passed away unexpectedly of natural causes on Tuesday, September 2, 2003. Dave was 61 years old and retired from the National Weather Service in 2000. Dave spent several years at Western Region Headquarters as the Fire Weather Program Leader. Earlier in his career, Dave spent time at Pendleton, Oregon, and Missoula, Montana, as a fire weather meteorologist. He was instrumental in leading the National Weather Service and Western Region into the modernization of the fire weather program.



Dave joined the Air Force in 1962. He attended the University of Oklahoma while in the Air Force, graduating in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He continued his active service until 1971 and then joined the National Weather Service. Dave was also in the Air National Guard and retired with the rank of captain. While he was in the NWS he attended the University of Montana, receiving his master's degree in Forestry in 1979.

Dave leaves his wife Donna of 41 years, two daughters, four grandchildren, a sister, a brother, and his parents. Dave will be remembered as a caring individual who had a great impact on the NWS in developing and maintaining a first class fire weather program.

If you would like to make a contribution, the family asks that donations be sent to the Trinity Baptist Church Building Fund. The address is:

Trinity Baptist Church
3020 South Avenue West
Missoula, MT 59804

DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR



Western Region Cline Award Winners: Congratulations to the Western Region Cline Award winners. The following individuals were chosen as the regional level winners and will go on to compete at the national level for the prestigious national Cline Awards.

Program Management: Clint Jenson, DAPM, Portland WFO - Clint has been involved in the Cooperative Observer Program for more than 19 years. During that time, he has made major contributions to the COOP program locally, regionally, and nationally. Clint assisted with the development, testing, and implementation of the CSSA software.

Support Services: Diana Koenig, ASA, Glasgow WFO - Diana has provided excellent support to the Glasgow office, including being selected to test new budget tracking software. She has been called upon to help train other ASAs in Western Region and has helped develop a variety of printed materials for the office.

Hydro-meteorology: Duane Dykema, Acting WCM, Monterey WFO - Duane has strongly contributed to the development of a Climate Services Program for the NWS by designing a web page that could be used as a standard across the agency. He also provided outstanding support during December 2002 when several major storms struck California.

Hydrology: Troy Nicolini, Service Hydrologist, Eureka WFO - Troy developed an innovative method to estimate flood state for river forecast points, and he pioneered work in computational forecast methods for the interface between rivers and the ocean. He helped develop a web based training module for hydrology and developed water safety materials for the public.

Meteorology: Daniel Borsum, General Forecaster, Billings WFO - Dan has made significant contributions to the Western Region Fire Weather Program, including comprehensive training for new staff members, developing an interactive form for Red Flag watches and warnings, and working with the Department of Agriculture to research improved understanding of the Haines index.

Leadership: Dave Bernhardt, SOO, Great Falls WFO - Dave provided help to all Western Region offices by creating custom shape files which included rivers, lakes highways, and coastal waters. He saved many hours of work and his products are viewed by thousands of people each day. Dave also served as Acting MIC for two months and established new safety procedures for the upper air shelter.

Upper Air: WFO Elko - The excellent work of the staff greatly increased the efficiency of the upper air unit. Elko has only missed one flight since September 2002, a big improvement over the previous year. They leapt from a national ranking of 89th the previous year to 48th in July with another leap of 20 places expected by the end of

August. On time transmission of data has improved dramatically from 96% in 2001 to 99.5% for this year.



(l to r) Wade Mathews (Tooele County Office of Emergency Management), Kari Sagers (Tooele County Emergency Director), Larry Dunn (MIC, NWS Salt Lake City), and Dave Toronto (WCM, NWS Salt Lake City).

NWS Western Region Recognizes Communities as StormReady: On September 2, Tooele County became the first location in Utah to be recognized as StormReady. Attendees at the ceremony included officials from Tooele County Commissioners, Tooele Emergency Management, the NWS office in Salt Lake City, and senior staff representing Utah's U.S. Senators, Orrin Hatch and Robert F. Bennett.

On September 4, Fremont County, Idaho, and eight nearby communities received their StormReady status. A presentation took place in the Fremont County Courthouse in St. Anthony. Attendees at the ceremony included representatives from the NWS office in Pocatello, Idaho, and officials from Fremont County and the eight incorporated cities of Ashton, Drummond, Island Park, Newdale, Parker, St. Anthony, Teton, and Warm River.

Canadian Forecasters Visit Sacramento: Three forecasters from Alberta Environment visited WFO Sacramento and the California-Nevada River Forecast Center on September 4. Alberta Environment is an Alberta provincial government service which works closely with Environment Canada. The forecasters toured both facilities and spent several hours discussing how hydrology, fire weather, and data management programs are handled in the U.S. They found that some web-based tools they were thinking about developing were similar to things already implemented at the River Forecast Center. A briefing on fire weather was interrupted by an IMET deployment so they were able to gain first-hand knowledge of how weather support is provided to wildfires.

NWR Awareness Month in Seattle: WFO Seattle kicks off its month-long NOAA Weather Radio awareness month by participating in the Pallup Fair with a booth focusing on NOAA Weather Radio and its all-hazards capabilities. King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties will also participate in this tri-county effort, that will also include sponsorship by several area power utilities (Puget Sound Energy, Tacoma Power) and media (KOMO TV/Radio). At least four retailers will also partner to carry weather radios in September (McClendon's Hardware, REI, Fred Meyer, Bartell's Drug). The committee has also contacted many weather radio manufacturers regarding their participation in the campaign. The Washington State Division of Emergency Management will host the campaign website to reflect this year's activities and consumer incentives. Each Washington WFO was provided information about the campaign for their use, such as on their website, weather radio station announcements, and media contacts. Several campaign articles were composed for the Washington State Association of Broadcasters and the State Sewer/Water Association.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

TAF of the Week: This week's product of the week is an amended TAF from WFO Tucson. The amendment was issued shortly after the routine TAF was issued and underscores the importance of a continuous weather watch for aviation forecasts. Pam Wollack (a Student Trainee) and Pat Holbrook (a General Forecaster) both noticed a thunderstorm over the Chiricahua mountains near Douglas, AZ, that was starting to drift to the southwest toward Douglas. The routine TAF was issued under the premise that with light flow aloft any thunderstorms that developed would remain over the mountains until late in the day. However, this was not the case as the storms moved off of the higher terrain much earlier. The TAF was, therefore, updated to reflect current conditions and the change in forecast thinking. The updated TAF verified, which confirms how important a continuous weather watch is for all forecast programs. Good work Pat and Pam.

FTUS45 KTWC 301810 AAA
 KDUG 301810Z 301818 05008KT P6SM SCT060CB SCT100 SCT250
 TEMPO 1822 VRB20G35KT 5SM TSRA BKN060CB
 FM2200 35008KT P6SM SCT060CB SCT100 SCT250
 TEMPO 2202 VRB20G35KT 5SM TSRA BKN060CB
 FM0200 35008KT P6SM SCT100 BKN250
 FM0700 35006KT P6SM SKC
 FM1600 VRB03KT P6SM FEW060=

FTUS45 KTWC 301738
 KDUG 301738Z 301818 05008KT P6SM SCT060CB SCT100
 FM2100 01008KT P6SM SCT060CB SCT100 SCT250
 TEMPO 2101 VRB20G35KT 5SM TSRA BKN060CB
 FM0200 05008KT P6SM SCT100 BKN250
 FM0700 35006KT P6SM SKC
 FM1600 VRB03KT P6SM FEW060=

Fire Weather Program: Over the weekend of September 6, the fire activity increased substantially in Montana, the Pacific Northwest, and California ahead of a cold front approaching the Pacific Northwest Coast. Many of the fire crews had to disengage from suppression activities because of the increasing winds and extreme fire behavior. Seven IMETs and one IMET trainee were dispatched to Western Region fires during the period, and by Monday, September 8, 27 IMETs and trainees were on site at fires in Western Region.

On Sunday September 7, Western Region MSD sent Jeff Lorens (Regional WCM and Marine Program Manager) on assignment to Eureka to help the office staffing. Jeff Lorens is working shift, which allows IMETs Nancy Dean and Jeff Tonkin to concentrate on the numerous fires in Eureka's forecast area.

The Western Region Fire Weather Program continues to receive kudos from customers who interact directly with our IMETs and WFOs. Shortly after WFO Pocatello IMET Jack Messick returned from the Craig II Fire, he received a "performance rating" from the Craig II fire supervisor. It said, "Great job! Jack was very meticulous in setting up the satellite equipment and work areas. His forecasts were timely, professional and accurate. He provided weather updates as needed, to keep the operations section informed of the latest weather information. It was a pleasure working with Jack, and the Alaska Team would welcome him back!"

WFO Reno received a two-page letter of appreciation from the North County Fire Protection District in Fallbrook, CA, which stated, in part, "the efforts of your staff have directly contributed to lives and property being saved." The letter further said, "you (MIC Hollingsworth) and your staff are firefighters just like the folks out there on the fire lines".

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

WR PD&T Report - September 30: The office semi-annual Professional Development and Training Plan Report is due September 30. Please send them to Andy Edman (WR/SSD).

WES Training and TA-Lite - Dec 1 & Dec 15:

2 Winter related WES training cases - December 1.

Winter TA-Lite on one of cases - December 15.

Please send Mark Mollner (WR/SSD) an email when the WES cases are completed and the TA-Lites.

National FY04 Training Schedule Distributed: Mark Mollner (SSD) has distributed the national training assignments for the FY04 NWSTC and COMET courses. Please take a few minutes to log on the appropriate training web page to complete the required pre-requisites prior to attending the course.

Tenth Annual Workshop on Weather Prediction in the Intermountain West:

Deadline for abstract submission extended to September 12, 2003.

The Tenth Annual Workshop on Weather Prediction in the Intermountain West will be held on Thursday, November 6, 2003 at the Desert Research Institute (DRI) in Reno, Nevada. The objectives of this annual workshop are to discuss major issues related to operational meteorology over the western United States and to foster interactions between researchers, applied meteorologists and other professionals who rely on operational weather forecasts or data.

This year marks the first time that the workshop will be held in Reno, along the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada. With such a backdrop, the theme of the workshop will be "Meteorology of the Sierra Nevada". Presentations on operational meteorology issues relevant to both the western and eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada, and other regions in the west whose weather is impacted by the Sierra Nevada, are encouraged. The workshop is being hosted by the DRI Division of Atmospheric Sciences.

Individuals interested in presenting or simply attending the workshop may register online. Go to the workshop web page at: <http://www.conferences.dri.edu/WxPrediction> and click on the link for online registration. The deadline for submitting a one-paragraph abstract has been extended to September 12 with conference registration requested by October 17. There are NO registration fees. Please register as soon as possible.

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

NWR: The Barney Top UT UHF link, which provides program audio to the Navajo Mountain NWR has been upgraded to a narrow band compliant transmitter. The Navajo Mountain UT NOAA Weather Radio was also visited. A filter was installed to help eliminate interference and a ROAMS unit was installed with the first Tri-mode digital cell code.

AWIPS Activities: Western Region Headquarters installed AWIPS OB2 on August 28. The installation went smoothly. The OB2.1 beta release was delayed and has not been rescheduled. WRHQ (VHW) is still scheduled to be an OB2.1 beta test site.

A Safety Session: Ergonomics

- C Good ergonomics adapts the job to the person instead of the other way around.
- C Poor ergonomics causes painful musculoskeletal disorders.
- C Minimize repetitive movements to avoid ergonomic injuries.
- C Organize your work area to minimize risk.
- C Choose and use tools with ergonomics in mind.
- C Don't ignore symptoms of ergonomic injuries.

Optional Quiz (*answers in next Staff Notes*):

1. Good Ergonomics
 - a) Adapts the job to the person
 - b) Forces the person to fit the job
 - c) Causes musculoskeletal disorders
2. Musculoskeletal disorders may result from repetitive motions or
 - a) Forceful exertion
 - b) Awkward positions or movements
 - c) Both a and b
3. Carpal Tunnel Syndrome occurs when the nerve in the wrists carpal tunnel is pinched.
 - a) True
 - b) False
4. The tools and materials you use should be within a
 - a) 20 inch reach
 - b) 6 inch reach
 - c) longest possible stretch
5. An ergonomic tool is lightweight, doesn't require extreme effort, and
 - a) Is custom designed
 - b) Is easy to grip
 - c) Can be gripped with one finger